

Countdown to Christmas - Events in School

Christmas Cards

We are allowing children to send cards to one another in school but we need your help to do this safely. Cards must be brought into school from Monday 30th December to Friday 11th December in a plastic bag and posted into the class post box. They will be given out to children during the last week of term. Envelopes should have the name of the child the card is for and their class e.g.

'Ben Smith or Ben S Pine Class'

School Nativity

This year our children from Nursery to Year 6 will take part in one whole school nativity performance. As you are aware we are unable to perform as a whole school altogether and we can not invite you into school to be our audience. So...we are creating a 'bubble' nativity and editing it to stream to you in a password protected video format. You will have received permission slips this week and it is vitally important we get these back to enable your child to take part.

Christmas Parties

Children may come to school dressed in their party clothes on the day of their party. We do not want children to bring clothes and change. Children do not need any party food, we will provide a snack and a juice/water. Thank you for your support.

Christmas Pantomime

This year the children will be watching a streamed panto as we are unable to visit the theatre. We will be watching 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'. They may buy sweets from us to eat during the performance from our tuck shop. All money must come into school in a named envelope.

Christmas Lunch

Children who usually have a packed lunch but would like a Christmas Dinner are welcome. Your order must be in by Friday December 4th.

Christmas Jumper Day and Treats in School

On Friday 18th December, children can wear their Christmas jumper to school and pay £1 fine. They will receive a treat during the afternoon of cookies and hot chocolate.

Please see the list of dates at the end of this newsletter!

COVID Update *Article 19 - Children have the right to be safe*

As you know we all need to work together to keep safe and stop the spread of COVID-19. We have now seen what the impact of one or two cases can have on our school community and the ripple it causes with regards to anxiety among staff and parents. At all times we need to be careful; we need to frequently wash our hands, especially if we leave/arrive home from the supermarket, shop, school, garage etc, we need to wear a face covering if we can't maintain a distance of 2m from other adults and we need to distance ourselves from others, giving others space. Thank you very much to all parents who are remembering to wear a face covering when dropping off and collecting children and for continuing to support us through this very difficult time.

COVID Symptoms *Article 24 - children have the right to the best possible health care*

Please remember to look out for the following symptoms which could indicate COVID-19:

- A new continuous cough (usually a dry cough and you will be coughing much more than usual)
- A high temperature
- A loss of taste and/or smell

Should you become aware that you have symptoms or that you or a member of your household has tested positive, it is important to alert school at the earliest opportunity. If this happens over the weekend please inform school via one of the following email addresses which will be checked on a regular basis:

oakleycross@durhamlearning.net and oakleybrannanoneil@gmail.com Thank you.

Attendance *Article 28 - every child has the right to an education*

Please inform us as soon as possible if your child is not going to be at school; it is important that we enter the correct reason on our school register to avoid 'unauthorised' absences. It is particularly important at this time that we are made aware of any Coronavirus symptoms our children or family members may have. In line with safeguarding procedures, we do need to know **all** reasons for absence. A list of school term dates and holidays can be found at the end of this newsletter and I would appreciate your co-operation in not taking children out of school unnecessarily. Any child with low attendance or attendance which causes concern will trigger intervention from Mr Readman our attendance officer or the Local Authority attendance team.

Safeguarding - Are your contact details up to date? *Article 8 - children have the right to a family*

It is important that we have up to date contact details for all children here on file at school. Please drop us a note if you think we may not have your current contact number: home, work or mobile. For safeguarding purposes we must also be informed of any changes to your child's home address/living arrangements as soon as possible.

Governor Vacancies *Article 28 - every child has the right to an education*

We currently have one vacancy for a parent governor on our school governing body. If you are interested in this role or would like more information, please contact school. We also have one co-opted governor vacancy who could be a member of the wider community. We would be really interested in speaking to someone who may have expertise in finance and accounts.

Nursery Places *Article 28 - every child has the right to an education*

Our nursery is proving to be very popular this year. If you are interested in a place, or would like more information, please contact school and we will be happy to arrange an appointment to show you round and provide you with an application form. We are currently compiling a waiting list. We are monitoring attendance in nursery closely. Where we are concerned that children are not attending on a regular basis we will be contacting parents as places could be offered to other children who are on our waiting list.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with school if you want to discuss anything.

Thank you.

R Brannan

Dates for the diary

Christmas Cards into school	Monday 30 th November until Friday 11 th December
Christmas Nativity Shared	Friday 18 th December
Nursery Parties (morning & Afternoon)	Wednesday 9 th December
Blossom Class Party	Thursday 10 th December
Christmas Pantomime Day	Friday 11 th December
Pine Class Party	Monday 14 th December
Willow Class Party	Tuesday 15 th December
Sycamore Class Party	Wednesday 16 th December
Maple Class Party	Thursday 17 th December
Christmas Jumper day and Treat Day	Friday 18 th December
Break up for Christmas	Friday 18 th December
School re-opens	Tuesday 5 th January 2021

Term Dates 2020-2021

AUTUMN HALF TERM	Friday 23 rd October 20	Monday 2 nd November 20
CHRISTMAS 20	Friday 18 th December 20	Tuesday 5 th January 21
SPRING HALF TERM	Friday 12 th February 21	Monday 22 nd February 21
EASTER 21	Friday 26 th March 21	Monday 12 th April 21
MAY DAY	Thursday 30 th April 21	Tuesday 4 th May 21
SUMMER HALF TERM	Friday 28 th May 21	Tuesday 8 th June 21
SUMMER 21	Friday 16 th July 21	TBC